



LATINO LIFE

Books about the Hispanic Experience

2014

Latino Life is a list of recent books concerning the Latino experience and is published as part of the Boston Public Library's observance of Hispanic Heritage Month each year.

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2014



BIOGRAPHY

Almost White: Forced Confessions of a Latino in Hollywood

by Rick Najera

Najera, an award-winning Mexican-American actor, writer, director, comedian, and producer, shares the ups and downs of his creative professional life.

E184.S75 A3 2013x

*** *Clemente: The True Legacy of an Undying Hero***

by the Clemente Family

This oral history and scrapbook is a tribute to the life of the Hall of Fame baseball player and humanitarian legend who died much too young.

GV865.C45 C54 2013

+ *The Closer: My Story*

by Mariano Rivera

Baseball's great pitcher reflects on his longtime career as a Yankee and the poor Panamanian childhood that instilled religious faith, humility, and devotion to family.

GV865.R496 A3 2014x

Darling: A Spiritual Autobiography

by Richard Rodriguez

Rodriguez, a gay Roman Catholic, examines his belief in God and the church in the context of religious extremism and rising atheism.

BX4705.R6375 A3 2013

For All of Us, One Today: An Inaugural Poet's Journey

by Richard Blanco

Blanco, who recited his poetry at President Obama's second inauguration, shares his personal and professional life stories, both as a Latino immigrant and an openly gay man.

PS3552.L36533 Z46 2013

Handbook for an Unpredictable Life: How I Survived Sister Renata and My Crazy Mother, and Still Came Out Smiling (with Great Hair)

by Rosie Perez

Perez, a Puerto Rican-American, tells her story of a Brooklyn girl who overcame an unstable and abusive childhood to become a dancer, actress, and activist.

PN2287.P387 A3 2014

Illegal: Reflections of an Undocumented Immigrant

by José Ángel N.

Two decades ago the author entered the United States illegally from Mexico. This memoir tells how he built a successful life, yet still fears discovery.

F548.9.M5 N3 2014

My Name Is Cool: 18 Stories from a Cuban-Irish-American Storyteller

by Antonio Sacre

Sacre, Boston-born and educated, weaves together Cuban customs and culture with Irish humor in these short stories and personal vignettes.

PS3619.A295 Z46 2013x

EXPRESSIONS

Pope Francis: Untying the Knots

by Paul Valley

Valley examines the career of the first Latin American pope and his transformation from a reactionary conservative to an advocate for the poor.

BX1378.7 .V35 2013x

S Street Rising: Crack, Murder, and Redemption in D.C.

by Ruben Castaneda

Castaneda, a crack-addicted *Washington Post* journalist, covered the drug-fueled violence in Washington, D.C., while in his off-hours he looked for his next fix.

PN4874.C316 A3 2014

+ Still Dreaming: My Journey from the Barrio to Capitol Hill

by Luis V. Gutiérrez

Outspoken on immigration and gay rights, Gutiérrez, a Puerto Rican-American and longtime congressman from Chicago, tells his life story.

E901.1.G87 A3 2013

Take This Man: A Memoir

by Brando Skyhorse

During his childhood in Los Angeles, the author's mother denied their Mexican roots and pretended he was the son of a famous incarcerated Native American.

PS3619.K947 Z468 2014

The Cheap Chica's Guide to Style: Secrets to Shopping Cheap and Looking Chic

by Lilliana Vazquez

Vazquez, fashion maven and founder of CheapChicas.com, offers advice on how to shop and dress stylishly on a shoestring.

TT507.V375 2013

Cuba Then: Rare and Classic Images from the Ramiro A. Fernández Collection

by Ramiro Fernández

This compilation of vintage cityscapes, entertainment, sports, political movements, and everyday life provides an important and fascinating photographic record of pre-revolutionary Cuba.

TR653.F47 2013x

Faces of Tradition:

Weaving Elders of the Andes

by Nilda Callañaupa Alvarez and Christine Franquemont

Personal stories and intimate photographs portray the endurance and dignity of the Quechua of Cusco and their lifelong devotion to the artisanal arts of their ancestors.

F2230.1.T3 A48 2013x

* appropriate for teens

+ available in Spanish or bilingual

***The Food and Cooking of
Argentina: 65 Traditional Recipes
from the Heart of South America***

by Cesar Bartolini

Mouthwatering culinary creations served up in full color illustrations showcase the wide variety of the cuisine of chef Bartolini's native land.

TX716.A7 B37 2014x

***Fungus Skull Eye Wing: Selected
Poems of Alfonso D'Aquino***

by Alfonso D'Aquino

This collection by the Mexican master of nature poetry plumbs, in vibrant verse, the complex bond humans have with the nonhuman sphere.

PQ7298.1.Q56 A2 2013

***Latin American Street Food:
The Best Flavors of Markets,
Beaches, & Roadside Stands
from Mexico to Argentina***

by Sandra A. Gutierrez

A culinary tour of 20 countries featuring 150 easy, authentic recipes brings home a range of these most popular and delectable dishes.

TX716.A1 G884 2013

***Mexican: Authentic Recipes
from South of the Border***

Pamela Clark

Colorful illustrations of snacks, sweets, drinks, and everything in between are presented with easy-to-follow instructions for making tasty Mexican favorites at home.

TX716.M4 M485 2013x

+ *iMira Cuba!*

edited by Luigino Bardellotti

Over 250 color reproductions illustrate how poster art has been used to educate, influence, and propagandize from the Revolution to the current day.

NC1807.C8 M57 2013x

***New Orleans Con Sabor Latino:
The History and Passion of
Latino Cooking***

by Zella Palmer Cuadra

Stories and recipes from 13 diverse New Orleanian Latinos show the deep-rooted influence of Latin culture on the city's classic cookery.

TX715.2.L68 C83 2013

*** *Singing at the Gates:
Selected Poems***

by Jimmy Santiago Baca

This fiercely passionate yet contemplative collection embodies four decades in the life of the Chicano poet, who began writing in prison at age 18.

PS3552.A254 S56 2014x

**HISTORY &
CONTEMPORARY
ISSUES**

***Hunting Season: Immigration and
Murder in an All-American Town***

by Mirta A. Ojito

The murder of an undocumented Ecuadorian immigrant in Long Island, New York, exposed the anti-immigrant undercurrent running through many small communities in America.

HV6534.P38 O35 2013

+ *Latino Americans: The 500-Year Legacy That Shaped a Nation*

by Ray Suarez

In this companion to the PBS miniseries, the author explores the lives of influential Latinos and their impact on United States history.

E184.S75 S83 2013

The Latino Generation: Voices of the New America

by Mario T. García

First-generation college students discuss what it means to be Latino and dispel stereotypes about the largest minority group in the United States.

LC2670.6 .G37 2014

My Family, My Self: The Latino Guide to Emotional Well-Being

by staff from Comunidades Latinas Unidas En Servicio

Latinos new to the United States are faced with different challenges than in their native countries. This guide helps navigate unfamiliar territory in traditional ways.

E184.S75 M9 2014x

The Other Side of Paradise: Life in the New Cuba

by Julia Cooke

The author highlights profound changes since Castro relinquished power but indicates that young Cubans continue to want to immigrate to countries with better opportunities.

F1799.H35 C66 2014

Our America: A Hispanic History of the United States

by Felipe Fernández-Armesto

United States history books usually tell stories from the English perspective. This history details the equally important Hispanic contributions to our history and current events.

E184.S75 F46 2014

The Right to Stay Home: How US Policy Drives Mexican Migration

by David Bacon

Extreme poverty forces many Mexicans to immigrate to the United States where they face anti-immigrant policies and criminalization. More and more of them are resisting the trend.

JV7401 .B33 2013

Story of a Death Foretold: The Coup Against Salvador Allende, September 11, 1973

by Oscar Guardiola-Rivera

The book details the overthrow and suspicious death of Chilean President Allende, deposed in a violent coup supported by President Nixon and Pinochet, Chile's army commander.

F3101.A4 G82 2013x

Why Soccer Matters

by Pelé

The most recognizable name in soccer reflects on his career, the history of the World Cup in Brazil, and the importance of soccer as a world sport.

GV942.7.P42 A3 2014

* appropriate for teens

+ available in Spanish or bilingual

**Wise Latinas:
Writers on Higher Education**

edited by Jennifer De Leon

This collection of essays by Latinas, including Sandra Cisneros and Julia Alvarez, describes their educational experiences and reveals cultural influences that discourage them from attending college.

LC2670.6 .W57 2014

**The Wrong Carlos: Anatomy
of a Wrongful Execution**

by James S. Liebman and the Columbia
DeLuna Project

In 1989, Carlos DeLuna was executed for the murder of Wanda Lopez in Texas. Evidence proves there is almost no chance he was guilty.

KF224.D45 W76 2014

FICTION

The Accidental Native

by José L. Torres-Padilla

When Rennie travels to Puerto Rico to bury his recently deceased parents, he is stunned to meet a woman who claims to be his real birth mother.

The Antiquarian

by Gustavo Faverón Patriau

Gustavo searches for answers when his old friend Daniel is interned in a psychiatric ward for murdering his fiancée.

At Night We Walk in Circles

by Daniel Alarcón

In an unnamed South American country, Nelson joins a touring guerrilla theater troupe performing *The Idiot President*, and trouble ensues.

Bogotá

by Alan Grostephan

Amid crime, poverty, and civil war, a Colombian boatman, fearing for his life, flees with his family to the city's slums.

+ The Book of Unknown Americans

by Cristina Henríquez

Moving from Mexico to America after their daughter's near-fatal accident, the Riveras confront cultural barriers, as well as their daughter's difficult recovery and budding romance.

Chasing the Sun

by Natalia Sylvester

Lima, Peru, 1992: When his unfaithful wife is kidnapped, Andres must decide whether his marriage is worth saving and what he is willing to sacrifice for it.

The City of Palaces

by Michael Nava

Miguel, a doctor haunted by his past, marries Alicia, the disfigured daughter of an aristocrat, while facing the upheaval of the Mexican Revolution.

Give It to Me

by Ana Castillo

Palma Piedras, a 40-something divorcée, stumbles her way through sexual misadventures and small-time hustles.

Hotel Brasil: The Mystery of the Severed Heads

by Frei Betto

Fear and suspicion surround the guests at a dilapidated Rio de Janeiro hotel where brutal murders are being investigated.

Looking for Providence

by Johnny Diaz

In Providence, Rhode Island, newly single Cuban-American Ronnie Reyes meets Phil, a handsome business executive. But is he ready to embrace a new love?

The Love Bunglers

by Jaime Hernandez

After years of pain and tragedy, can Maggie finally find love with her on-again, off-again lover Ray Dominguez? This is a graphic novel.

+ *The Man Who Loved Dogs*

by Leonardo Padura

A Cuban writer discovers his new friend has a terrible secret: he assassinated Leon Trotsky in Mexico City in 1940.

Mañana Means Heaven

by Tim Z. Hernandez

In this retelling of Jack Kerouac's *The Mexican Girl*, Bea Franco takes up with the struggling writer hoping to escape her life of poverty and abuse.

+ *The Mongolian Conspiracy*

by Rafael Bernal

In late 1960s Mexico City, a hired gun tries to foil a suspected Chinese-Mongolian plot to assassinate the Mexican and American presidents.

+ *Papers in the Wind*

by Eduardo A. Sacheri

Three friends in Argentina negotiate the world of behind-the-scenes soccer when they try to sell off a third-rate player no one wants to buy.

Prayers for the Stolen

by Jennifer Clement

In Guerrero, Mexico, where girls are disguised as boys, or "made ugly" to avoid the attention of traffickers, Ladydi dreams of a better life.

+ *Quesadillas*

by Juan Pablo Villalobos

Orestes finds the humor in growing up poor in 1980s Mexico; he and his siblings compete for their mother's quesadillas (which may or may not include cheese).

+ *Severina*

by Rodrigo Rey Rosa

A bookseller falls in love with the mysterious, dark-haired woman who steals books from his store.

Shantytown

by César Aira

In a Buenos Aires slum, a corrupt cop uses Maxi, a hulking and dim-witted young man, to help break up a local drug ring.

* appropriate for teens

+ available in Spanish or bilingual

+ *The Sound of Things Falling*

by **Juan Gabriel Vásquez**

When a law professor in Bogotá investigates his friend's murder, he discovers his past as a drug runner and his love affair with an American woman.

+ *Talking to Ourselves*

by **Andrés Neuman**

Seriously ill Mario embarks on a road trip with his 10-year-old son, hoping to create an enduring memory. Meanwhile, his wife faces temptation at home.

Tequila Sunset

by **Sam Hawken**

A reluctant member of the Azteca gang crosses paths with an El Paso policewoman and a Mexican federal agent as they attempt to cripple the ruthless organization.

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